



SACWN

Sacramento Area Career Womens Network, Inc.

VOL. 6, NO. 2

FEBRUARY, 1990

Valentine Sweetheart's Dance

Saturday, February 17, 1990

1025 9th Street (at K)
Fraternity Hall

Social Hour 7-8 p.m.
Dance 8-12 p.m.
 D.J. - Jo Tierney
Hors D'oeuvres

Non-alcoholic beverages and beer
and wine will be available.
Membership cards and non-
member IDs will be checked
because of the sale of alcohol.

An event for women 21 years and older.



Don't Miss The MARCH Networking Party!!



The March event, on Friday, March 16, will provide an opportunity for people to get together in small groups.

The Networking Committee promises more details in the March issue.

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Poetry Reading

Adrian Rich, lesbian/feminist poet from Santa Cruz, will read from her work on Wednesday, March 14, at the Unitarian Universalist Society, 2425 Sierra Blvd. in Sacramento.

Rich, the author of *Bread and Roses* and *Of Women Born*, will appear as a fund raiser for the local chapter of the New Jewish Agenda. The Agenda is a political, cultural, progressive organization which promotes world peace.

More information may be obtained by contacting Sandy at 457-6881.

LETTER

To whom it may concern:

As the mother of the 10-year-old child who attended the Dianne Davidson concert on November 17 I read with some distress the Steering Committee's comments printed on page 2 of the January newsletter.

Implicit in the above was an inconsiderate, and even pushy, effort on my part to "prevail" despite allegedly well-known policies prohibiting under-21-year-olds from attending SACWN sponsored events. While I did, and do, assume responsibility for what, in retrospect, turns out to have represented a regrettable, and perhaps even insensitive, violation of policy, in my defense I would like to say that I was completely unaware of SACWN's policy at the time. This unawareness was shared by Rosanna, who kindly allowed Jenny to attend when she learned of our last-minute, unanticipated child-care difficulties.

It's simply isn't true, as was stated, that I "challenged" SACWN policy. There was furthermore no intent to bring discomfort, or anger, to any fellow Sacwnites, and I apologize for any embarrassment or inconvenience that may have been caused.

Sincerely,
Pamela Martell SACWN mother

WANTED:

Audit of SACWN Fiscal Records

Each year SACWN is required to conduct an audit of our fiscal records. The Steering Committee is seeking a qualified person to conduct two audits: one in March or April 1990 for the 88/89 fiscal year, and one in August 1990 for the 89/90 fiscal year.

The individual must demonstrate appropriate abilities and credentials for conducting audits such as a CPA or EA.

Please submit bids and qualifications to SACWN, INC. P.O. Box 661332, Sacramento, CA 95866. If you have questions please contact Jesse McGuinn at 363-5426 (evenings). This job will be awarded to the most qualified bidder submitting the most reasonable bid.

RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships. We talk about relationships. We dream relationships. We live and breathe relationships. We watch relationships come alive, die, be reborn. We wonder, and question and watch. We work hard at some and run from others. Lesbians are relationship experts. And yet, according to some writers, professionals and watchers of our relationships, Lesbians are dismal failures at establishing and maintaining the kinds of relationships we hold in ideal.

Women who write about Lesbian relationships suggest that we need to create a new language for our relationships and our sexuality. The new language, suggest women like Joanne Loulan, Sonia Johnson and Sarah Hoagland, must come from our ongoing dialogue and a constant evaluation of the kinds of words we use (and their attendant connotations) to create, nurture and end relationships. The language we use in our lives, say these women, is the language of the heterosexual community; defining, explaining, describing relationships within a context of heterosexuality, straight culture, man/woman terms.

Some writers have suggested that our relationships never really end, that we make great efforts to salvage the damaged relationships, that we have explored the limits and extensions of our relationships like no other community. Out of introspection and recognition of our own needs to acknowledge and validate the strengths of former relationships, we find the remnants that we value and rebuild relationships, creating new, complicated, sometimes confusing

mixes of old, new, redefined, rebuilt, lost, and fragmented relationships within the community.

We may indeed be relationship experts. And we may need only to look toward ourselves for the "expert" intuition and knowledge we seek in discovering exciting nuances about our relationships or how to heal the wound or how to salvage the remnants of a battered relationship.

What kinds of relationships do we have? What are the elements we seek in our relationships? . . . Among friends? . . . Among lovers? Is it that we see ourselves in our lovers and friends and we do what we can to nurture that self in others? And are we fascinated or appalled by our differences and explore or shrink far from intimacy when confronted by the differences?

This will be a new and regular column in the SACWN news. In future issues you will find interviews and discussions with all kinds of women in our community about relationships — not about specific relationships, but about the kinds of relationships we have, what we look for, what we want and the direction we are going. The writer welcomes letters, suggestions, ideas. If you would like to participate in this column, please let me know. Letters to the editor are welcome and will be printed. We want to know. Lesbians and our relationships. Let us begin a dialogue.

Correspondence may be directed to Theresa Cote, c/o SACWN, P.O. Box 661332, Sacramento, CA 95866.

Theresa Cote, MSW

Women's Self-Defense Class Forming

An increase in the incidence of attacks on Lesbians has triggered the formation of a local women's self-defense and personal safety class instructed by Midge Marino.

Marino, a self-defense instructor at CSU Sacramento, holds a second degree black belt in Judo.

The three- to four-hour training emphasizes the importance of psychological preparation, the use of logic, control and anger as a positive force, plus verbal and physical skills necessary to stop victimization.

The training defines laws, dispels myths, and identifies the assailant and his game plan. It also examines sex role socialization and how it affects our attitudes, behavior and responses.

"Hands on" instruction focuses on the body's vital points, blows and kicks, chokes and body releases, ground defense and "your five weapons."

Participation is limited to 40 women with cost ranging between \$15 to \$20 depending on the number in the class. To sign up for a class in March, contact Judy Ludwick at 429-2806.

Lesbian Mothers Needed For Study

Sharon Lindenfeld, a graduate student in the School of Social Work at California State University, Sacramento, is working on her Master thesis on Lesbian Mothers and Custody Fears. Many Lesbian mothers are now engaged in or will be engaged in court cases to gain or regain custody of their children. She notes these women are in dire need of support from many levels. Her hope for the thesis is that it will enlighten mental health workers, lawyers and judges in seeing that a woman's sexual preference has nothing to do with the quality of her mothering.

Her population of subjects can include any woman who considers herself to be a lesbian who is raising or has raised a child whether or not they are now living together. Women interested in participating may contact Lindenfeld at P.O. Box 804, Rocklin, CA 95677, or call collect: 927-5146. All replies will be held strictly confidential.

Corporate Coordinator

Membership Policies

The Steering Committee started the year off with lots of business on the agenda. First, we heard concerns from two subscribers about the long-standing policies restricting membership to lesbians over 21. We recently surveyed subscribers on such issues as whether men or other non-lesbians should be included at events, and last month we heard from several subscribers upset that men were invited to the holiday event. Obviously, this is an issue of concern to a lot of subscribers, and you'll be hearing more from the Board as we collate and analyze the hundreds of written comments given in the survey questionnaires.

The Committee also finalized the job description and duties of the new Volunteer Coordinator. Then the first draft of the first 6 months of the Administrative Calendar was presented and all were asked to contribute items from their area of responsibility which should be included in the final draft of this year-round planning document. We also looked at items left over from the November Retreat and timelines to complete them, and voted some necessary budget changes in the January and February event budgets.

Interview dates were set for individuals interested in serving as Program Coordinator, and hopefully we'll have new energy and talent for you soon in that position. We also decided to put out to bid among subscribers our need for audits of the recently completed 1988-89 fiscal year and next year's 1989-90 time period.

Special Events Coordinator Jane Randall announced a new location for the Valentine's Dance which promises to be plenty roomy — with plenty of dance floor! We are looking forward to that.

Finally, we learned from Marketing that our new subscriber brochures should be available by the next event at the HUB. Check there if you want to get some to pass on to friends or clients, or call Linda Ragnetti if you need a supply.

That's all for now . . . let us hear from you if you have ideas or concerns on anything happening with SACWN.

Rosie Metrailler
Corporate Coordinator

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Networking Committee

Hubba Valentine's Day!

In this month of HUBS and flowers, expressions and connections, we'd like to tell you a little bit about the HUB. Webster's dictionary defines HUB as the central part of a wheel or a center of activity. Our neon sign, displayed at our tables during programs, represents the first part of the definition. It serves as a beacon to signal our expression or the second part of the definition. We endeavor to provide a place at each monthly meeting where information regarding the activities of the lesbian community can be made available.

Material at the HUB may include SACWN related information such as newsletters, fliers, marketing information, constitution, by-laws, committee descriptions, sign-ups for Special Interest Groups, sign-ups for volunteering and ride-sharing, Directories for purchase, and our Resource Book containing business cards of members. Community-related material may include local gay and lesbian newspapers, and fliers of local and regional gay and lesbian events.

The HUB is usually peopled by one or two members during the social hour and for at least half of the time length of the event. These volunteers are there to provide information, answer questions, sell Directories, and say hello! We want the HUB to be helpful to you, so please let us know how we're doing. Drop us a note in the SACWN Suggestion Box, also located at the HUB. C U there!

Susan Goodrich
Networking Coordinator

Program Committee

New Program Coordinator Soon

As we go to print this month, there are two people who have expressed an interest in being the SACWN Program Coordinator. The SACWN Board will interview the candidates and choose the best person for this important position. A special "thank-you" to these two women who answered the call for leadership in this area. In the next newsletter you will learn more about the new Program Coordinator.

I'm excited to have a new person on the SACWN Steering Committee Team. Spending the last 3 months doing both jobs has shown me how much work there is to do for this position. SACWN continues to provide quality programs because of all the hours put back in by volunteers. If you feel it's time to give something back to SACWN, call the SACWN Volunteer Coordinator Sally Rydell at 363-5426 and volunteer a few hours.

I hope to see you at the February Dance. It promises to be a night of fun and romance!

Rosanna Herber
Steering Committee Coordinator

SEGMENTS

❖ Twelve California lesbian/gay elected government officials have announced the formation of the California Association of Lesbian and Gay Elected Government Officials. CAL/G EGO is an offshoot of the National Organization of Lesbian and Gay Elected and Appointed Officials whose efforts offer a national forum of political strategy and discourse concerning the gay community. CAL/G EGO's co-chair San Mateo County Supervisor Tom Nolan feels that the California chapter will serve a significant purpose in supporting local and state-wide initiatives and candidates.

CAL/G EGO's plans include a state-wide conference in 1990 to address the legislative needs of state and local regions, and to establish an on-going strategy for identifying significant candidates and initiatives.

The 12-member board includes Robla School District Trustee Gary Miller.

❖ Federal employees can support the ground-breaking work of the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund through contributions on your Combined Federal Campaign this year. Enter the fund's I.D. number on your CFC pledge card. To contact the Fund, call 212/925-6635, or write NOW LDEF, 99 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10013.

❖ A lesbian in January lost a lawsuit seeking joint custody and visitation rights to a girl born to a former lover through artificial insemination with sperm from the plaintiff's brother. A Los Angeles Superior Court Judge ruled against Terri

Sabol, 33, who sought to gain parental rights and even wished to pay child support.

"We are filing a notice of appeal" said attorney Gloria Allred. "We believe that persons who are gay and lesbian have the right to be parents."

Sabol and her "life partner" decided in 1985 they wanted a child. Part of the decision was that the other woman would carry the baby because Sabol "was in a better position to be the breadwinner," Allred said.

Sabol's brother, Steve, donated sperm for the artificial insemination procedure, which was performed by Sabol.

The other woman became pregnant in April 1986 and a girl was born on Dec. 16, 1986. The child's parentage made Sabol the girl's aunt.

❖ "A Call To Action! The March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives," a 30-minute video tape is available for \$19.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling per tape. The video captures the power, excitement and massiveness of the April 9, 1989 March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives, the largest March in women's rights history. Produced for the National Organization for Women, the chief organizer of the March, the tape reveals the plans and details of NOW's Emergency Campaign to keep abortion legal launched by the March. Tapes can be ordered from the March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives, NOW, P.O. Box 7813, Washington, D.C. 20044.

❖ The Campaign To End Homophobia, based in Massachusetts, is working to create change in society which would allow people to be free of oppression on the basis of ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, class, disabilities, or religion.

The group's steering committee, which is composed of women and men and people of color, has announced its Third Annual Conference on Anti-Homophobia Education. The conference will be held from June 22-25 in Seattle, Washington.

Campaign projects include two pamphlets for young people: "I think I might be a lesbian . . . now what do I do?" and "I think I might be gay . . . now what do I do?" (for young men). Ongoing projects include the development of additional pamphlets, such as "What Causes Homophobia?" and "Working with Homophobic Young People," and the development of a guide for leading introductory workshops on heterosexism and homophobia. In addition, the campaign newsletter, *Empathy*, has been expanded to journal format.

Contributions may be made and more information can be obtained by contacting The Campaign To End Homophobia, P.O. Box 819, Cambridge, MA 02139 at 617/868-8280.

STEERING COMMITTEE

AMANDA STENNICK Newsletter Coordinator (916) 441-4752	JESSE McGUINN Finance Coordinator (916) 363-5426
SUSAN GOODRICH Networking Committee Coordinator (916) 451-9691	SALLY RYDELL Volunteer Coordinator (916) 363-5426
ROSEMARY METRAILER Corporate Coordinator (916) 447-7255	ELLIE ZACKS Special Interest Groups Coord. (916) 967-0611
JANE RANDALL Special Events Coordinator (916) 973-8583	ROSANNA HERBER Steering Committee Coordinator Acting Program Comm. Coordinator (916) 451-1682
LINDA RAGNETTI Marketing/Advertising Coordinator (916) 482-6118	LINDA KILLICK Administrative Assistant (916) 486-8985

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SACWN, Inc. solicits letters regarding issues, concerns, etc. Please send letters signed to Editor, Judy Ludwick, P.O. Box 221354, Sacramento, CA 95822. Names will appear with prior approval. Letters may be edited due to space restrictions.

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Newsletter Business Directory

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COORDINATOR	AMANDA STENNICK
EDITOR	JUDY LUDWICK
CONTRIBUTORS	THERESA, SACWNBOOK GROUP, LYDIA, JOYCE
ADVERTISING	LINDA
GRAPHICS	JOAN G.
TYPESETTING/	PAULA K.
LAYOUT	WORDCRAFT TYPE
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NO ADS WILL BE TAKEN OVER THE PHONE OR AT SACWN EVENTS. PAY IN FULL IN ADVANCE AND SAVE 10% for 3 insertions or longer — SAVE 15% with 12 insertions.

All art and payment is due on the 2nd Tuesday of the month for next month's issue. Send to SACWN, Inc., P.O. Box 661332, Sacramento, CA 95866.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

BRIDGE



Our games in February will be held on the 9th and 23rd at 7:00 p.m. To get the locations, or for more information, call Vivian, 452-5727. Players of all skill levels are encouraged to attend.

GOLF



We'll meet in March to plan the 1990 season. We're still seeking an interested individual to chair the committee. For more info. call Melody, 392-3609.

SINGLES ONLY



Hello! Any singles out there? Sometimes it seems that everyone in the community is coupled except me and this is one of those times. Since mid-December, when I took over as coordinator, not one person has called to find out what's happening. Singles, I know you're out there because everyone once in a while I get lucky and get a date. Mark February 16th in your little black book for a meeting in my home. This meeting will cover forming a committee to run the group and to plan future events. For more information, call Cheryl, 452-1687.

ACA OR DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES

February is heart month. The step study group will have heart to heart discussions on the ACA's favorite pastime: stuffing feelings. Then, after we have intellectualized, scrutinized, and compartmentalized the subject, let's let go of the learned need to stuff feelings and come from the heart in order to feel a few February feelings. The meeting dates are Feb. 8 and Feb. 22, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Call Sharon, 454-6052.

OUTDOOR RECREATION



Call Ellen, 441-7962.

SELF-EMPLOYED WOMEN



Our February meeting will be held on Tuesday, the 20th at 7:30 p.m. We will have a speaker on the topic of time management. Call Aerial for details, 452-5503.

METAPHYSICS AND SPIRITUALITY



Stars in your eyes, moons in your chart. What does it all mean? Come to the metaphysics/spirituality group and find out. In February, we will do a candlemas ritual and runes. For more information, call Karen, 452-3091.

LESBIAN MOTHERS AND KIDS



We'd like your input. Surveys are being sent around. Please respond. If you wish to receive a survey, call Madlyn, 487-2726.

BOOK GROUP



This month marks our first anniversary. During this time our membership has grown from 6 to 23. Of the original 6, 4 are still members. But there is still room for YOU. The selection this month is *The Other Sappho* by Ellen Frye. If you like to read ahead, the Selection for March will be *The Handmaiden's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. The book group meets at 3 p.m. the third Sunday of every month. During this month's meeting we will select the books for the next quarter, so join us and bring your ideas. For more information call Gretchen, 922-6287.

LATE BLOOMING LESBIANS

On February 17 come to Debbie and Sue's for dinner cooked by Debbie, Debbie and Sue. \$4.00 donation is requested. RSVP is a MUST by Feb. 10. If you can't make it for dinner, meet us at the SACWN Valentine's Dance. Support group will be Tuesday, Feb 27 at 7:00. Contact Debbie, 988-0719 or 725-3449.

RELATIONSHIP ADDICTION

Some of us now realize that our focusing on a relationship as the *main* reason for living is not exactly healthy. We have a support group that meets on Thursday nights. Call Judie, 973-1141.

CULTURE CLUB

The small band of weary but happy revelers sat eating mocha cheesecake and drinking latte, all while realizing the adventures of the evening. "What's next," they ask. "A concert," said one! "The play is the thing," claimed another. "A trip to the City, the possibilities are endless," put in one more! They all smiled. Join us and explore the possibilities. The Culture Club. Ann, 383-9257.

DANCE

The dance group has completed one series of ballroom and country/western lessons and there has not been sufficient interest in beginning another series of them. Therefore, the group is being discontinued until further interest develops.

Continued on next page

S.I.G.S., Continued from previous page

**** NEW GROUP!!! ****

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES GROUP

Whether you've got a small or large RV or pick-up camper, let's get together and plan some outings. Tent campers welcome too. Meet on Thursday, February 15, at 6:30 p.m. Call Jayne, 921-6642 for details.

Special Interest Groups (SIGS) are off to a roaring start again in this new year. We've had some groups fade for lack of interest and some new groups take off in a big way. Feel free to call me with feedback about current groups or suggestions for new ones. This month's SIGGY (the award for the most creative or humorous "ad" for their group) goes to Cheryl, our new singles facilitator. Honorable mention to Sharon, of ACA. Last month's award was a Lioness gift certificate.

Remember you need to join SACWN after attendance at one SIG event. See your facilitator for a subscriber brochure.

Ellie Zacks
S.I.G. Coordinator
967-0611

Kathy Mullen
Associate

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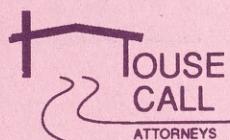
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CALENDAR

- SACWN Valentine Dance: February 17
- SACWN March Networking, March 16
- SACWN Newsletter Committee, February 13
- Women's Rap Group and Social, every Monday evening, 7-9 p.m., Lambda Center, 1931 L Street, Sacramento
- Lesbian and Gay TV Programming, Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Sacramento Cable TV, Channel 63.
- Women's Employment Service and Training (EST); employment and training opportunities for women. Sacramento Women's Center, 916/441-4207.
- Spokes Womyn Bicycle Club, short and long-distance rides. Call Launa, 916/447-6270.
- Gay and Lesbian University of California Employees. John Bennett, 916/457-3634.
- "Outlook" monthly Lesbian and Gay video magazine; Mondays 10:00 p.m., Cable Channel 47.
- Lesbian and Gay Friends of Animal Rights. Info. 916/921-1391 or 372-1431.
- Lesbian Crisis Line, Monday-Friday, 3-9 EST, 1-800-221-7044.
- "Being Gay Today" video program on Cable Channel 47, 10:00.

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ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DANCE

Please make my reservations for the Dance
February 17, 1990

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Cost:	# of Tickets	Amt. Enclosed
-------	-----------------	------------------

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Limited Income*	\$6.00	_____
Subscriber	\$12.00	_____
Non-subscriber and at the door	\$15.00	_____

TOTALS _____

Make checks payable to SACWN, Inc.

Send reservations, check or money order and a **self-addressed stamped envelope** by **FEBRUARY 10, 1990** to:

SACWN, Inc. P.O. Box 661332, Sacramento, CA 95866.

* **LIMITED INCOME** - SACWN, Inc. considers a person living on a limited income to be anyone who is having a difficult time paying for basic necessities - food, utilities and rent - and who rarely considers entertainment as part of their budget. SENIORS, STUDENTS, DISABLED - Age 65+ on Limited Income; Students 21+ on Limited Income; Disabled Citizens on Limited Income.

SACWN, INC. — SUBSCRIPTION/RENEWAL BY MAIL

Annual cost is \$24 for a calendar year (or two \$12 installments, the second due in 6 months). Subscription entitles you to receipt of our monthly newsletter and discounts for our various functions (dinners, dances). To avail yourself of these services provided by SACWN, Inc., send a check for the correct amount made payable to SACWN, Inc.

New Subscription
Renewal

Enclose check and mail to:

SACWN, Inc.
P.O. Box 661332
Sacramento, CA 95866

Annual (\$24) _____

1st Installment (\$12) _____

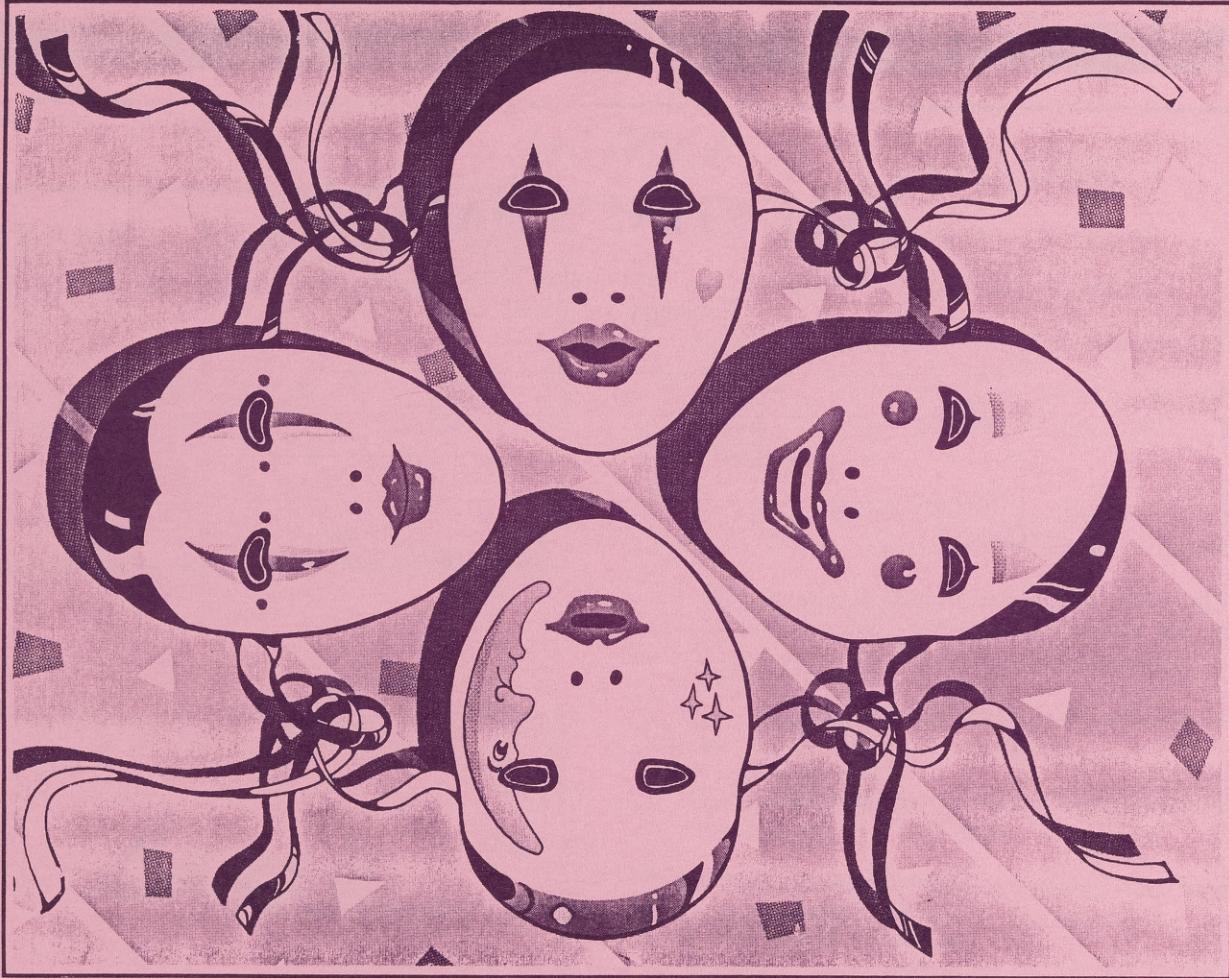
Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____
Career Interests _____

This form is NOT a permanent record. Please note: Names on checks are listed on our financial records and may be audited. You may elect to pay cash for your subscription and/or admission to our events. For your protection, do not send cash through the mail. If subscribing by cash, please make your payment at the next meeting you attend.

WAIVER

I AM AWARE THAT CERTAIN RISKS OR INJURIES COULD OCCUR ARISING FROM MY PARTICIPATION IN SACWN, INC. EVENTS AND/OR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS. IN CONSIDERATION OF THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH EVENTS, SOME OF WHICH MAY INVOLVE STRENUOUS ACTIVITY (I.E., HIKING, GOLFING, SKIING, CYCLING, ETC.), I HEREBY ASSUME ALL RISKS AND WILL HOLD SACWN, INC. AND ITS MEMBERS HARMLESS FROM ALL LIABILITY WHICH MAY ARISE IN CONNECTION WITH THESE ACTIVITIES.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____



SACWN, Inc.

P.O. Box 661332
Sacramento, CA 95866